



# THE NORFOLK ANGLERS CLUB **WIRELINER**

APRIL 2017

## What's Inside

Guest Speaker: Captain Craig Irwin, *Sea Change Sportfishing*,  
Offshore fishing for Black Sea Bass and Tilefish

### Fishing Reports:

- Fla Keys Snapper Fishing
- James River Catfish
- Guatemala Marlins, Mahi, and Sailfish
- Speckled Trout & Puppy Drum in Lynnhaven

### Anglers Interests:

- 2017 Recreational Cobia Regulations



# Leadership Notes...

Fellow Norfolk Anglers,

Here's a reminder that we still have Raffle Tickets (\$5) for the Cobia Charter Fishing trip with FINAO Sportfishing. This is a FULL Day, 4 Person Charter, including the Mate's Tip for the 2017 Cobia season. All the winner has to bring is what you want to eat/drink and a cooler for your Cobia afterwards. The winning ticket (Single Draw) will be drawn at our next meeting by Captain Hayne.

*Will*



On the Cover: Photographer Kristen Swanbeck took the Wireline cover photo on January 1, 2017 off Cape Henry, Virginia.

## MEETING

**Guest Speaker: Captain Craig Irwin, *Sea Change Sportfishing*  
*Offshore Fishing for Tilefish and Black Sea Bass***

With Black Sea Bass season opening May 15th and deep drop fishing getting better each day, the April meeting is a great opportunity to hear from Capt Craig Irwin on his expert offshore fishing techniques for Tiles and Sea Bass .



## Important:

Date of next meeting - Monday, April 10th at 7pm

## Location:

Teppanyaki Buffet & Grill

7525 Tidewater Drive, Norfolk, VA 23505

## Publishers NOTES

Editor:

Wendy Bransom

wbranfildes@gmail.com

## NAC OFFICERS

President:

Will Bransom

will.bransom@gmail.com

Vice President:

Henry Troutner

htroutner1@gmail.com

Treasurer:

Ned Smith

neds9610@aol.com

Secretary:

Ike Eisenhower

jeisenhower2@cox.net

Events Coordinator:

Beth Synowiec

thesynowiecs@verizon.net

Assistant Events Coordinator:

Mike Hubert

albeman45@yahoo.com

Guard/Greeter:

Ben Capps

benlcapps60@gmail.com

Member at Large:

Alex Perez

Alex52101@aol.com

Webmaster:

Pat Hirsch

pfhirsch@yahoo.com



**NORFOLK ANGLERS**

**CLUB**

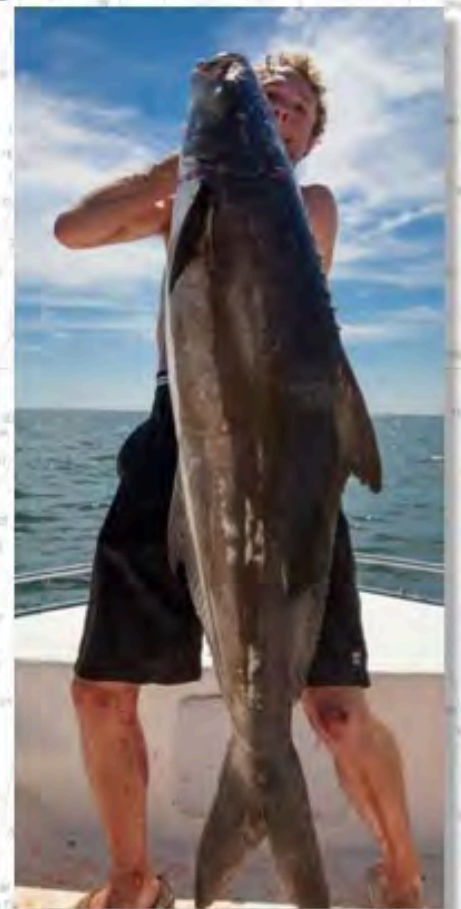


## 2017 Season Cobia Charter Raffle

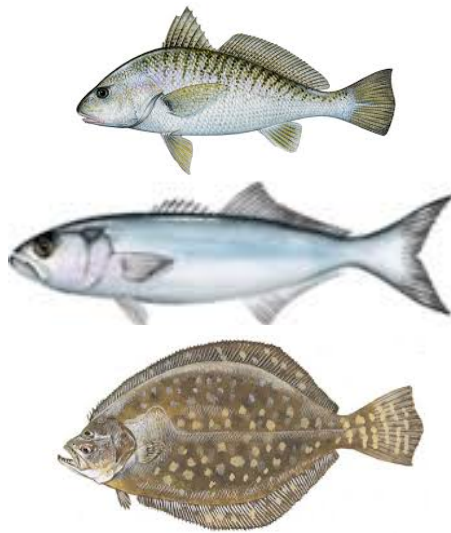
**\$5**

**Four Person – Full Day Charter with  
FINAO Sportfishing  
(includes Mate's Tip)**

**Single winner drawn at April 2017  
Norfolk Anglers Club meeting.  
Don't have to be present to win.**



**"Hunt for the  
Hardheads"  
Challenge**



**Sign Up  
at the  
April 10th  
Meeting!!**

**"Hunt for the Hardheads"  
Saturday May 20, 2017**

Norfolk Anglers Club, Virginia Beach Anglers Club,  
Portsmouth Anglers Club, and Great Bridge Fishing Association

A Croaker, Bluefish, and Flounder  
fishing challenge among angler clubs.

**Tentative Date:** Saturday May 20, 2017

**Location:** Portsmouth City Park Lines In: 7:00am

**Measure In:** Starts at 12:30pm ends at 1:30pm

Entry Fee: \$30.00 per boat (3 additional anglers \$10.00  
(Includes Fishing, Picnic, and Wish a Fish Donation)

Picnic Only \$5.00

**Rules:**

1. Clubs are limited to five boat entries. Team Captains must be Club Members.
2. Boats depart from any Virginia Port.
3. Eastern Boundary is 500 yards east of HRBT.
4. Measurement is length only. Girth measurement determines a tie.
5. 5 Points awarded for longest fish, 4 pts for second longest, etc. Up to five fish entries for each species. The Club with the most points wins!



# Ready for Sea & Season?

Getting ready for the fishing season isn't just about buying new tackle, cruising the fishing flea markets for quality "old stuff", and spooling new line on a reel. Well, it's that too but when you get to thinking about it, really thinking about it, there's far more involved.

Being prepared *before* the season starts will often result in less hassle during the season. Preparing for Sea can be quite simple by having your vessel looked at by the US Coast Guard Auxiliary with their Vessel Safety Check (VSC) program. Their trained inspectors will review your vessel's essential safety systems and ensure you're in compliance All for FREE!

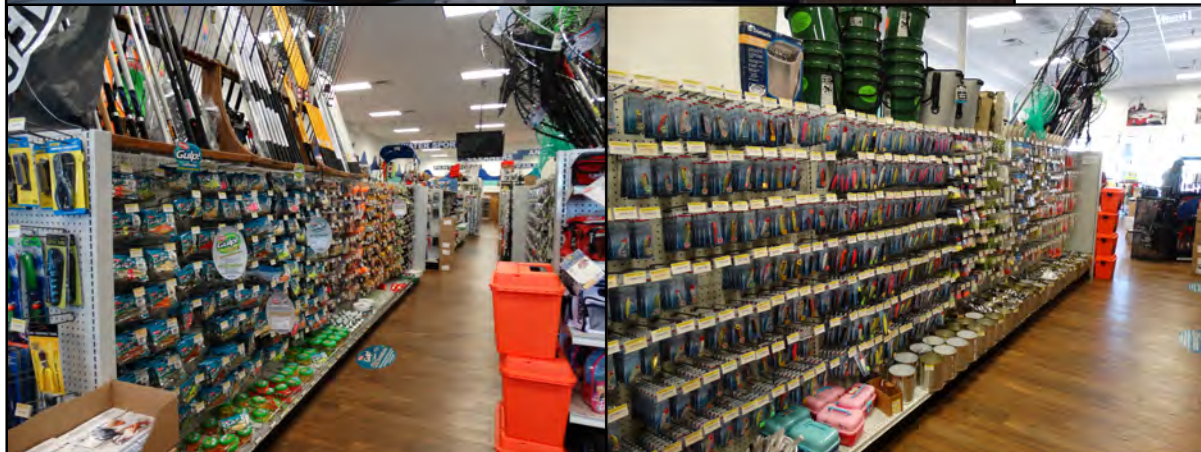


VSCs can be done at your marina, at your home, or trailer your boat over to the Boaters Warehouse in the Hilltop Shopping Center on Saturday May 13th and have it done there. It only takes about 15-30 minutes and can give you the peace of mind knowing all the required safety items are up-to-date.

Shop at the Boaters Warehouse for any safety or fishing items before the season begins and take advantage of special event pricing.



Save the Date!  
Saturday  
May 13th





# Fishing Reports...

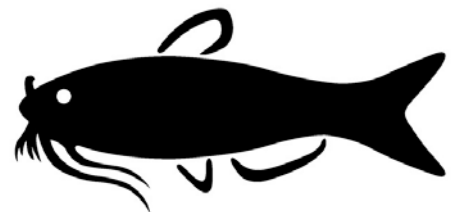


14 March: I fished aboard the *Warbird* from Bud N' Mary's Marina in Islamorada Florida Keys on a beautiful day. I fished for half a day, the fishing was slow as a cold front came through the night before and it was pretty rough as we went out. I had the option to catch Yellow Tail Snapper which had been a pretty sure thing or go for something a little larger.

We went about 4 miles off Alligator Reef in 350 feet of water and caught this nice Mutton Snapper on live bait drifting over an offshore wreck. The fishing was tough but I was finally rewarded with a great Snapper Ceviche later on! Estimate this was a 5-6 lb fish. - Jack Salvant



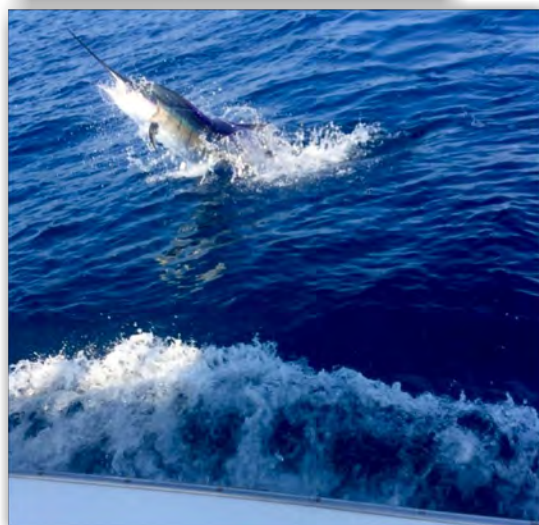
17 March: On a nice Friday, Mary and I joined John Curry for an afternoon of Cat fishing on the James River. The weather was beautiful and the water was calm. We fished the Surry Power Plant discharge area and caught about a dozen. We only kept 3 for the table. Bait was frozen bunker and the bite was steady. - Henry Troutner





March 9 - 11: I was unable to attend last the meeting because I was in La Antigua Guatemala fishing with friends Whitey and Bertha Bryan, Kenny Stephenson. The four of us caught 22 Sailfish, 3 Blue Marlin and one Mahi Mahi. All of the fish were attracted with teasers (daisy chains and poppers) and then we pitched ballyhoo to hook them. The tackle was 20lb. class unless a Marlin was spotted and then the heavy tackle came out. We fished with Captain Brad Phillips of Guatemalan Billfishing Adventures aboard his boat the Decisive. I retired in 1995 and moved to the eastern shore. Since then I have run charters, fished on charters and commercial hook and lined, I have never seen with a more accomplished crew. We stayed in a gated community which was beautiful but once we left the grounds it wasn't so great.

*I joined the club to find some new fishing partners. I have extensive knowledge of the barrier island back bays and primarily fish for Flounder, Speckled Trout, Tautog and Black/ Red Drum. - Jim Clark*



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**Capt. Mike Griffith  
 USCG Licensed  
 757-687-9093**



# GREAT TO BE BACK ON THE WATER

17 March: Nick Wright asked me to join him to fish the Lynnhaven River. This was my first trip fishing in 6 weeks. We left the dock around 9:30 a.m. with light wind forecast to be out of the NW and changing to the South later. However, the weather man never mentioned gusts of 12 to 18 mph that we had to contend with. With bows in our



lines it was hard to give a good presentation using MR17s, however we stayed with the 17s. During the first few hours we caught a nice 19" Speckled Trout and had a few bumps but it was generally slow. After moving 5-6 times and 1 hour before the wind changed direction, we finally found some nice fish. We landed four 20 to 21" Speckled Trouts and a few throwbacks but no Puppy Drum. The bite stopped when the wind direction changed to the South. Water temp. ranged from 41 to 48 degrees. *Great to be back on the Water !*  
- Ned Smith



From the Canyons to the Creeks... We've got you Covered!



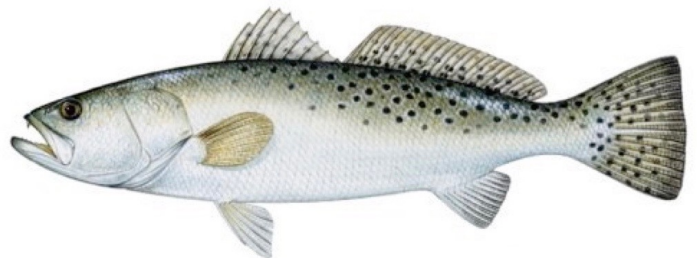
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Sales Consultant

5221 VIRGINIA BEACH BLVD.  
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Paul @ NorfolkMarine.com  
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25 March: Russell Willoughby, Bob Stuhlman and I fished the James River again with charter fisherman Captain Petey. This was Russell and my second time fishing with Captain Petey and since we got citations last year, we thought we'd try it again but this time we brought Bob. It was a cold morning at the Jordan River Bridge yacht basin when we met Captain Petey, but there was no wind to speak of so we weren't too uncomfortable. It promised to warm up into the seventies by the afternoon. The catfish bite started right off with Russell bringing in a 24 pound fish within the first hour. Next I got a 37-pounder. Bob caught a 20-pounder and then Russell followed next with a 34 pounder. I followed with a 12 lb. eating six fish.

All of these were caught before 9 o'clock in the morning, all at one place right off the channel of the river. Then when the bite quieted down, we moved to another spot and then Bob got a 48 lb monster in about 8 feet of water. We then struggled going from place to place looking for a bite as the warm wind picked up and we managed to pick up another 20 pounder for Russell and myself but never did get a third fish for Bob. But what the heck he got a monster 48 pounder and definitely is going to be the major challenger for the roulette fish of the year in VBAC. Congrats to Bob. Thanks Captain Petey for a great Catfish catching day.  
- Dr. James W. "Ike" Eisenhower



26 March:  
Louis and I went fishing with Bert in the Lynnhaven River. Winds were breezy and fishing was very

slow (few throw back specks) until the last 1/2 hour of the day. We made our last stop in 6 ft. of water near a shallow area. As soon as our MR 17's and 18's hit the water we had Puppy Drum hook ups. In 30 minutes, we caught 10 Pups and 2 Speckled Trout. Then the bite stopped and we went back to the dock. - Ned Smith





7 March: Lots of Spots. I caught six of these little guys. They measured 16"-17 1/2", unfortunately I had no keepers.

The Flounder bite is on. This monster (right picture) was snagged with a mirror lure in Lynnhaven. - Jimmy Robinson



26 March: I fished the triangle wrecks on a nice Sunday with my friend Steve. The weather was great and the seas were calm for the entire ride out and back. Light winds and waves less than 1 foot at the wrecks.

We refined our catch and release technique on smooth dogfish. I fished with speed jigs and Shimano butterfly jigs hoping to catch something a little more interesting. All the dogfish were caught on baited flounder rigs drifting the wrecks. I probably could have done a little better but my numbers on the wreck locations were not accurate.

*If anyone in the Club would like to come along next time and share some coordinates with me I would really appreciate it.*  
- Jack Salvant

25 March: We fished the west side of 1st island CBBT and marked plenty of fish on the bottom, but not a bite. Had fun in the sun despite no fish blood on the deck. - Mark Plweinski

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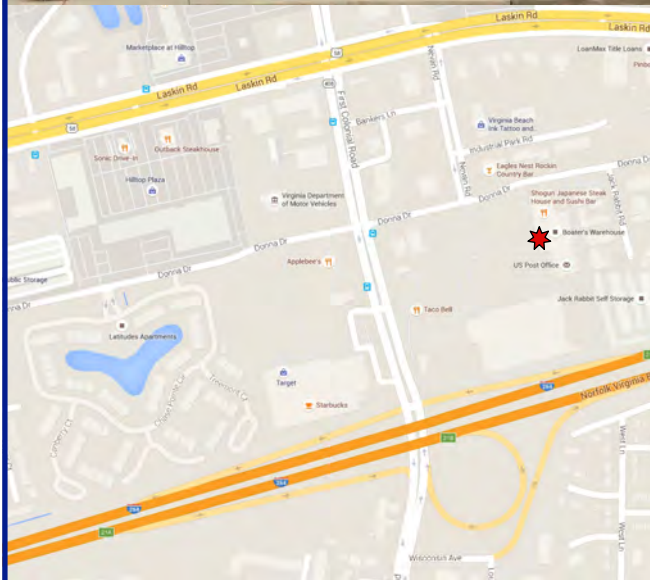
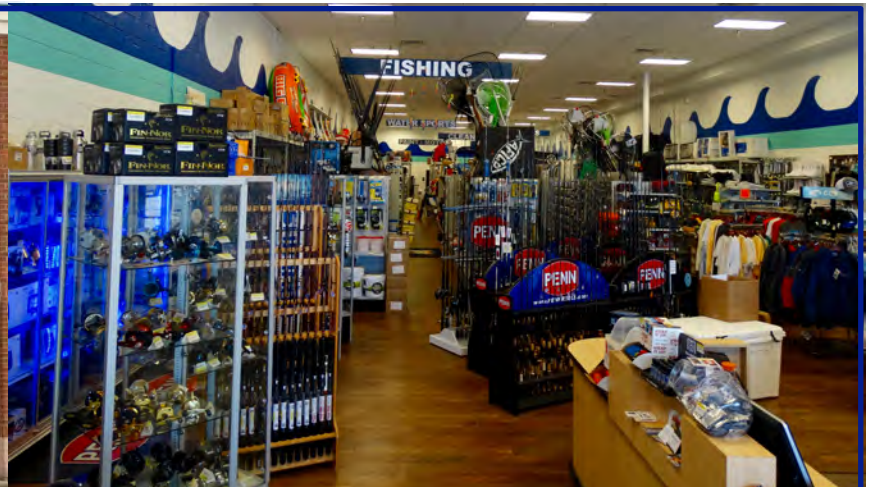
Join now.

SEA TOW





9 March: I had a decent day in the Lynnhaven. Two out of four on Drum and three out of five on Speckled Trout with three more that pulled off. - Jimmy Robinson



Mon – Sat: 9:00am – 7:00pm  
Sun: 9:00am – 5:00pm



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# Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program

## *Celebrates 22 Years of Tagging!*

Since 1995, the Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program (VGFTP) has tagged recreationally important finfish with the help of volunteer anglers. A cooperative effort between the Marine Advisory Program at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) and Saltwater Tournament at the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC), the program's funding is from state saltwater license funds and VIMS.

The program's goals are:

1. to train and maintain a group of experienced anglers in effective tagging and catch and release techniques and
2. use angler-collected data to learn more about life history patterns of selected recreationally important marine fish.

The VGFTP provides important information to the angling community about the value of Virginia's marine recreational fisheries, including the benefits of effective catch and release fishing.

### VGFTP DATA for Management

VGFTP data have been used for updating fishery management plans by state, regional and federal management groups:

**VMRC-Virginia Marine Resources Commission:** Used VGFTP data to describe habitat use and seasonal migratory patterns of red drum

**ASMFC-Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission:** VGFTP data were used for evaluating tautog harvest rates.

**SEDAR-Southeast Data Assessment and Review:** Examined VGFTP cobia data for patterns in long-range movements.

**ASMFC Interstate Tagging Committee:** certified the VGFTP in 2013. The VGFTP is one of only 5 programs to earn this recognition.

### THE TAGGING PROGRAM SUCCEEDS BECAUSE OF ANGLERS.

As of February 2017, >280,000 fish have been tagged with a recapture rate of 11%. These data provided movement and site-fidelity patterns of fish captured and released in the Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic coastal waters.

- VGFTP recaptures have been reported from RI to FL
- More than 300 taggers trained since 1995
- >900 locations have been registered as tagging or recapture sites
- The VGFTP has been recognized for improving communication between fisheries scientists, managers and anglers.

In 2016, VGFTP anglers tagged more than 15,890 fishes and had 1,652 recaptures. Cobia, sheepshead, speckled trout and tautog all had an increase in tagging. The top tagged species in 2016 was speckled trout, making up 53% of tagging effort. Speckled trout have led tagging effort for the past six years (except 2012, when red drum ruled). Although tagging effort was dominated by juveniles, the fact that speckled trout was the top tagged species was positive after winter cold stuns at the beginning of the year. The VGFTP continues to provide valuable data describing fish habitat use & movement patterns for key recreational species.

[www.vims.edu/vgftp/](http://www.vims.edu/vgftp/)

Susanna Musick, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, P.O. Box 1346, Gloucester Point, VA 23062 Tel 804.684.7166

Lewis Gillingham, Virginia Marine Resources Commission, 2600 Washington Ave, Newport News, VA 23607 Tel 757.491.5160





## TWENTY+ YEARS OF TAGGING BY THE NUMBERS:

- **283,025:** More than 280,000 tags and 31,000 recaptures have been reported for the program since 1995 (an ~11 percent recapture rate)!
- **10:** The VGFTP targets ten species: black drum, black sea bass, cobia, summer flounder, red drum, sheepshead, spadefish, speckled trout, tautog and grey triggerfish.
- **3,411:** This is the longest "days at large" for a VGFTP tagged fish. A tautog that was originally tagged on November 6, 2006, at the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel was recaptured on March 9, 2013, at the Santore Wreck.
- **337:** a flounder originally tagged at the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel on November 18, 2007 was recaptured off Rhode Island on January 10, 2008, traveling an estimated 337 nautical miles in 53 days!
- **2779:** This is the tag number for a cobia that was tagged in VA and recaptured in the Gulf of Mexico. It was originally tagged in the York Spit on August 22, 2000 and was recaptured (and harvested) off Mississippi in the Gulf of Mexico on May 20, 2004
- **18,457:** This is the highest ever annual tagging effort for a single species in the VGFTP. In 2012, more than 18,000 red drum were tagged, making it the top-tagged species for the VGFTP that year.
- **350:** More than 300 taggers have participated in the program.



## VGFTP RECAPTURES & TAGS, 1995-2017



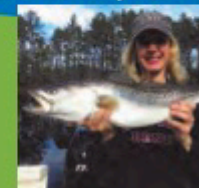
Year	Black Drum	Black Sea Bass	Cobia	Flounder	Red Drum	Sheeps Head	Spade Fish	Speckled Trout	Tautog	Trigger Fish	Total
2017	0 / 0	0 / 3	0 / 0	0 / 0	4 / 21	0 / 0	0 / 0	2 / 73	19 / 34	0 / 0	25 / 131
2016	7 / 96	1124 / 2949	67 / 471	122 / 1213	96 / 1802	0 / 20	7 / 131	55 / 8434	168 / 760	6 / 22	1652 / 15898
2015	7 / 115	1080 / 2150	70 / 361	198 / 1364	23 / 283	0 / 37	8 / 229	75 / 7548	84 / 676	7 / 50	1552 / 12813
2014	6 / 133	1171 / 2673	19 / 321	273 / 1640	498 / 3028	1 / 18	33 / 287	111 / 5666	88 / 536	4 / 53	2204 / 14355
2013	3 / 203	608 / 1884	16 / 224	128 / 904	868 / 5945	0 / 28	12 / 108	273 / 6535	125 / 1066	2 / 24	2035 / 16921
2012	14 / 146	188 / 1382	12 / 457	103 / 1779	619 / 18457	0 / 33	37 / 505	289 / 7937	100 / 1056	17 / 89	2379 / 31841
2011	10 / 214	482 / 1590	8 / 158	200 / 2693	282 / 1231	0 / 18	2 / 28	889 / 12740	79 / 701	3 / 13	1955 / 19386
2010	2 / 87	374 / 1003	15 / 108	464 / 5259	294 / 1890	1 / 21	12 / 87	178 / 7293	78 / 683	17 / 95	1435 / 16526
2009	5 / 172	1012 / 3274	8 / 36	1265 / 9348	544 / 3133	8 / 225	20 / 391	99 / 3204	110 / 541	46 / 176	3117 / 20500
2008	6 / 192	332 / 2688	8 / 66	866 / 7896	509 / 4925	2 / 40	41 / 300	215 / 3520	145 / 746	76 / 212	2200 / 20585
2007	36 / 546	292 / 1875	13 / 71	1060 / 8615	511 / 3364	41 / 229	73 / 433	60 / 2929	238 / 955	47 / 262	2371 / 19280
2006	28 / 288	260 / 1269	26 / 187	793 / 6218	361 / 4153	0 / 176	28 / 221	51 / 1952	309 / 2081	32 / 79	1925 / 16627
2005	4 / 205	107 / 686	4 / 98	621 / 6123	42 / 794	3 / 185	21 / 173	29 / 1149	133 / 822	4 / 23	973 / 10258
2004	5 / 232	70 / 1012	5 / 184	648 / 7286	23 / 502	27 / 274	43 / 299	26 / 990	119 / 1221	41 / 193	1016 / 12193
2003	5 / 176	88 / 922	11 / 14	397 / 3704	339 / 2270	0 / 6	26 / 236	8 / 361	59 / 497	12 / 31	963 / 8219
2002	15 / 188	231 / 1732	15 / 63	317 / 3566	193 / 2758	1 / 10	55 / 470	23 / 1249	129 / 653	23 / 56	1053 / 10749
2001	4 / 395	280 / 1913	19 / 87	636 / 6880	27 / 295	1 / 7	49 / 553	13 / 486	149 / 951	2 / 14	1215 / 11599
2000	5 / 109	294 / 2008	10 / 65	161 / 2603	173 / 1124	1 / 12	60 / 523	11 / 362	156 / 713	0 / 0	912 / 7519
1999	7 / 90	384 / 2139	16 / 59	4 / 4	135 / 1073	0 / 0	25 / 233	16 / 521	356 / 1923	0 / 0	973 / 6049
1998	8 / 196	455 / 2655	13 / 73	3 / 28	92 / 551	0 / 0	38 / 476	29 / 495	226 / 1347	0 / 0	881 / 5824
1997	2 / 72	48 / 592	9 / 108	2 / 38	44 / 438	0 / 0	36 / 547	12 / 440	77 / 914	0 / 0	233 / 3150
1996	3 / 85	0 / 0	9 / 75	0 / 6	4 / 92	0 / 0	8 / 189	4 / 409	74 / 543	0 / 0	102 / 1400
1995	37 / 200	0 / 0	2 / 50	0 / 3	2 / 66	0 / 0	25 / 193	14 / 601	30 / 260	0 / 0	110 / 1374

Recaptures are the first, smaller number. Tags are the second, larger number. This table includes multiple recaptures of the same fish. Data from February 2017

WE TAG:

**REPORT A TAGGED FISH:**  
[www.vasaltwaterjournal.com/report\\_tagged\\_fish.php](http://www.vasaltwaterjournal.com/report_tagged_fish.php)

black drum, black sea bass, cobia, gray triggerfish, red drum, spadefish, sheepshead, speckled trout, summer flounder & tautog.

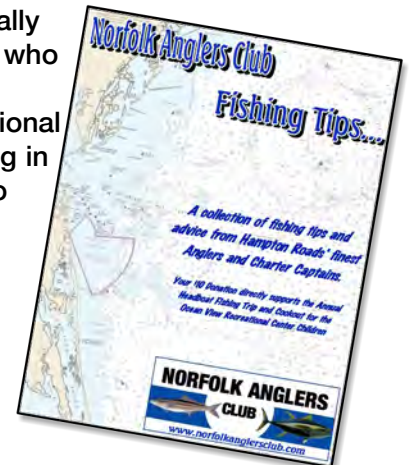






The Norfolk Anglers Club participated in the GBFA Fishing Flea Market on 11 March. Our thanks to GBFA for putting on such a fine event. Their members were very helpful getting vendors setup and organized.

We also appreciate our members, Mike Hubert, Henry Troutner, Dr Ike, Wendy Bransom, and Brian Tsai for helping out at the club booth. We had shirts, hats, raffle tickets for the Cobia trip, and our Fishing Tips book. The club did very well thanks to our volunteers, especially Henry, who was exceptional bringing in folks to buy a ticket.





# Angler Interests

## Norfolk Anglers Club Canned Food Drive.....We never stop collecting



The Food Bank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore was pleased to receive the non-perishable food items we've been collecting at the meetings. As a club, we can certainly do more for those who could use our help.

Items always in need; Lean Canned Protein (Peanut Butter, Tuna, Chicken, Turkey, Beans), Canned Fruits and Vegetables, Fruit Preserves and Dried Fruit, Whole Grains (Pasta, Oatmeal, Rice, Crackers), Other Meals (Stew, Boxed Meals, Canned Pasta), and Baby Products (Formula, Baby Food, Diapers, and Wipes).

We'll have a box for your donations at the door. So take a moment while you're out shopping to pick up a few of the items and bring them to the meeting. We'll take care of getting them to the Food Bank. Thank You for all you've contributed so far.

## Virginia Marine Resource Commission Meeting summary: 2017 Cobia Regulations



March 28: The Commission set the 2017 Recreational Cobia regulations with the following measures: 1). a 40 inch Total Length Minimum Size; 2). 1 Fish per-person possession limit; 3). A Daily Vessel Limit of 3 fish when three or more anglers are on board the vessel, only one of which may be greater than 50 inches Total Length; and 4). A season start date of June 1st and a season closure of September 15th. The Gaffing prohibition remains in effect.

## Reporting Requirement for Landing Cobia, Tilefish/Grouper, and Spring Trophy Stripers

Virginia Marine Resources Commission			
Transaction Number: OL280		<b>2017</b>	
Issue Date: 2017-02-19			
Agent: WEB	DOB:		
VMRC ID:	Hair:		
	Eyes:		
	Height:		
	Weight:		
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA 23456			
License No.	Gear	Decal No.	Price
OL280	-001 472		\$0.00
COBIA RECREATIONAL VESSEL PERMIT VA			
<small>Any change in your address or other personal information should be provided to the VMRC, within 10 days.</small>			
<small>I hereby certify that all of the above information is true and accurate and I meet all the requirements for purchasing any of these licenses.</small>			
Applicant Signature			

For 2017 the Virginia Marine Resource Commission added required reporting for landing Cobia in Virginia. Similar to the Landing Permits for the Spring Trophy Striped Bass and Tilefish/Grouper, the Cobia Landing Permit is available online or from a MRC Licensing Agent, and it's FREE. In fact, when you acquire it online you can either print a copy of the Landing Permit or save the confirmation email as proof you have the permit. Permits can be obtained for individual anglers or as a vessel permit covering everyone onboard.

Required reporting is simple through the Virginia Saltwater Journal with a few clicks of the mouse Anglers report the number of fish kept and released. No longer are size and weight entries required.

### Recreational Mandatory Reporting

VMRC ID can be found on your VMRC Permits. The VMRC ID is between 4 and 7 characters in length: (ex: N001234). If you have forgotten your VMRC ID, please use the VMRC ID Lookup. If you wish to report for another angler, enter the angler's VMRC ID below.

All fields are required

If you targeted more than one species in a single trip, please enter separate trips for each species targeted so angler hours can be captured for each species. Recreational captains are required to report harvest by all anglers on a permitted vessel. For-hire captains are required to report via Charter Boat Online Reporting System. Please enter all trips where a mandatory reporting species was targeted, even those where no fish were caught.

Date of Trip: Apr 01 2017  
Target Species:  
Fished From:  
VMRC ID:  
Number of Anglers Reporting For:  
Target Fish Kept:  
Target Fish Released:

Submit Report >>

